## Quantum critical behavior near a density-wave instability in an isotropic Fermi liquid

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We study the quantum critical behavior in an isotropic Fermi liquid in the vicinity of a zero-temperature density-wave transition at a finite wave vector  $q_c$ . We show that, near the transition, the Landau damping of the soft bosonic mode yields a crossover in the fermionic self-energy from  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(k)$  to  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(\omega)$ , where k and  $\omega$  are momentum and frequency. Because of this self-generated locality, the fermionic effective mass diverges right at the quantum critical point, not before, i.e., the Fermi liquid survives up to the critical point.

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Introduction. An isotropic Fermi liquid may experience various intrinsic quantum instabilities. They are characterized by divergence of the corresponding static susceptibility and emergence of a gapless bosonic mode in the collective, two-particle excitation spectrum. The instability point at zero temperature, occurring at a particular value of a control parameter such as electron concentration, is called the quantum critical point (QCP). Near QCP, the interaction between the soft bosonic mode and low-energy fermions often leads to singular behavior of the fermionic self-energy  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  and divergence of the fermionic effective mass  $m^*$ . A well-known example is the divergence of  $m^*$  near ferromagnetic instability [1], which occurs at the wave vector q=0.

In this paper, we study the divergence of  $m^*$  in an isotropic Fermi liquid near a zero-temperature charge- or spin-density-wave instability occurring at a nonzero wave vector  $q_c \leq 2k_F$ , where  $k_F$  is the Fermi momentum. We argue that, for  $q_c \neq 0$ , the behavior of  $m^*$  near QCP is rather tricky, and the analysis requires extra care.

We consider a model in which fermions  $\psi_k$  interact by exchanging a soft bosonic mode V(q)

$$\mathcal{H}_{\text{int}} = -\sum_{\boldsymbol{q}, \boldsymbol{k}, \boldsymbol{k}'} \psi_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}}^{\dagger} \psi_{\boldsymbol{k}'-\boldsymbol{q}}^{\dagger} V(\boldsymbol{q}) \, \psi_{\boldsymbol{k}'} \psi_{\boldsymbol{k}}. \tag{1}$$

The soft bosonic mode is peaked at the wave vector  $q_c$  and can be in either spin or charge channel

$$V(q) \approx \frac{g}{\xi^{-2} + (|\mathbf{q}| - q_c)^2}.$$
 (2)

Here g is an effective interaction constant, and  $\xi$  is the correlation length, which diverges at QCP as a function of electron concentration or pressure.

Interaction between soft bosonic modes (2) was studied by Brazovskii [2] in the context of a crystallization transition in an isotropic liquid. Dyugaev [3] applied the model (1) and (2) to explain enhancement of the effective mass and specific heat in liquid <sup>3</sup>He, arguing that <sup>3</sup>He is close to a spin-density-wave transition. Ref.

[4] utilized the Brazovskii model to describe a magnetic transition in MnSi, where a finite  $q_c$  is likely caused by the Dzyaloshinskii-Moriya interaction. The model (1) and (2) also applies to itinerant electrons in the vicinity of a ferromagnetic instability – a small but finite  $q_c$  appears there as a result of an effective long-range interaction between fermions due to the  $2k_F$  Kohn anomaly [5]. Refs. [6, 7, 8] proposed that the model (1) and (2) can explain the enhancement and possible divergence of the effective mass observed experimentally in the two-dimensional electron gas (2DEG) [9], as well as in <sup>3</sup>He films [10]. In the scenario of Refs. [6, 7, 8], the instability at  $q_c$  develops as a precursor to the Wigner crystal in 2DEG or to the crystallization transition in <sup>3</sup>He films.

The effective mass  $m^*$  is extracted from the fermionic self-energy  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  defined by the Dyson equation  $G^{-1}(k,\omega) = i\omega - \varepsilon_k - \Sigma(k,\omega)$ , where  $G(k,\omega)$  is the fermion Green's function, and  $\varepsilon_k = v_F(k-k_F)$  is the bare fermion dispersion counted from the chemical potential. The derivatives of  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  determine the renormalization factor  $Z^{-1} = 1 + i\partial_{\omega}\Sigma$  and the effective mass  $m^*/k_F = 1/v_F^* = Z^{-1}(v_F + \partial_k \Sigma)^{-1}$ , where  $v_F$  and  $v_F^*$  are the bare and renormalized Fermi velocities. Divergence of  $m^*$  can be caused either by  $i\partial_{\omega}\Sigma \to \infty$  (and, hence,  $Z \to 0$ ), or by  $\partial_k \Sigma \to -v_F$ . In the former case,  $m^*$  would diverge at QCP, but not earlier, while in the latter case, the divergence of  $m^*$  would generally occur at a finite distance from QCP. There exist other scenarios [11] for the divergence of  $m^*$ , which do not invoke a density-wave transition, but we will not discuss them here.

The interplay between  $\partial_{\omega}\Sigma$  and  $\partial_{k}\Sigma$  depends on whether  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  predominantly depends on momentum k or on frequency  $\omega$ . The two alternative scenarios for the model of Eqs. (1) and (2) where  $\Sigma$  depends only on k or only on  $\omega$  were advocated in Refs. [6, 7, 12] and Refs. [3, 4], correspondingly. In this paper, we show that the behavior of  $\Sigma$  in an isotropic Fermi liquid near a density-wave transition is actually rather involved. At some distance from QCP,  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(k)$ . However, the

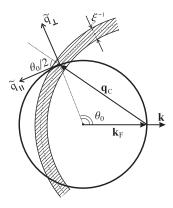


FIG. 1: The solid circular line represents the Fermi surface. The ring of radius  $q_c$  and width  $\xi^{-1}$  represents the effective interaction (2) via a soft bosonic mode. A fermion with the momentum k close to  $k_F$  strongly interacts with the two "hot spots" obtained by intersection of the Fermi circle and the interaction ring. The vector components  $\tilde{q}_{\perp}$  and  $\tilde{q}_{\parallel}$  are perpendicular and parallel to the Fermi surface at the hot spots.

frequency dependence of V, generated by the Landau damping, makes  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  predominantly  $\omega$ -dependent in the immediate vicinity of QCP. We show that, when the fermion-boson interaction g is smaller than the Fermi energy  $E_F \sim v_F k_F$ , the crossover from  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(k)$  to  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(\omega)$  is separated from the weak-to-strong coupling crossover near QCP. The latter occurs when the dimensionless coupling  $\lambda \sim (g/E_F)(\xi k_F) \propto \xi$  becomes of the order of 1. On the other hand, the crossover from  $\Sigma(k)$  to  $\Sigma(\omega)$  occurs at a small  $\lambda \sim (g/E_F)^{1/2} \ll 1$ , where  $\Sigma$  is still small, and  $\partial_k \Sigma$  does not reach  $-v_F$ . Once  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  becomes  $\Sigma(\omega)$ , only  $\partial_\omega \Sigma$  matters, i.e.,  $m^* = (Zv_F)^{-1}$  diverges with  $Z^{-1}$  at QCP, but not earlier. We present calculations in the 2D case, but the results are qualitatively valid also in the 3D case.

Momentum-dependent self-energy  $\Sigma(k)$  away from QCP. In the Hartree-Fock approximation, the exchange diagram with the effective interaction (2) gives

$$\Sigma(\mathbf{k}, \omega) = \int \frac{d\Omega d^2q}{(2\pi)^3} G(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}, \Omega + \omega) V(\mathbf{q})$$
$$= \int \frac{d^2q}{(2\pi)^2} n_F(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}) V(\mathbf{q}), \tag{3}$$

where  $n_F(\varepsilon)$  is the Fermi distribution function. The integration over  $\boldsymbol{q}$  in Eq. (3) is restricted by the conditions that the vector  $\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}$  lies inside the Fermi circle and the vector  $\boldsymbol{q}$  belongs to the ring of radius  $q_c$  and width  $\xi^{-1}$  centered at the vector  $\boldsymbol{k}$ , as shown in Fig. 1. Clearly,  $\Sigma$  in Eq. (3) does not depend on  $\omega$ , but it does depend of k, because the area of the ring inside the Fermi circle changes with k.

The derivative of Eq. (3) with respect to k, taken at

 $\mathbf{k} = \mathbf{k}_F$ , is given by the integral along the Fermi circle

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial \mathbf{k}} = -\int \frac{d^2q}{(2\pi)^2} \,\delta(\varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}) \,\mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}} \,V(\mathbf{q}). \tag{4}$$

where  $\delta(\varepsilon)$  is the Dirac delta-function, and  $v_{k+q}$  is the Fermi velocity at k+q. For large  $\xi$ , the integral (4) comes from the vicinity of the two "hot spots"  $q_c$  obtained by intersection of the Fermi circle and the circle of radius  $q_c$  centered at the point  $k_F$  on the Fermi circle (see Fig. 1). Decomposing the deviation from the hot spot  $\tilde{q} = q - q_c$  into  $(\tilde{q}_{\perp}, \tilde{q}_{\parallel})$ , as shown in Fig. 1, and integrating over  $\tilde{q}_{\parallel}$  first, we obtain  $\partial_k \Sigma = \hat{k} \partial_k \Sigma$ , where

$$\frac{\partial \Sigma}{\partial k} = -\lambda \, v_F \cos \theta_0, \quad \frac{m^*}{m} = \frac{v_F}{v_F^*} = \frac{1}{1 - \lambda \cos \theta_0}. \quad (5)$$

Here  $\theta_0$  is the angle between  $\mathbf{k}_F$  and  $\mathbf{k}_F + \mathbf{q}_c$  in Fig. 1, such that  $\sin(\theta_0/2) = q_c/(2k_F)$ , and

$$\frac{\lambda}{2} = \frac{1}{v_F} \int \frac{d\tilde{q}_{\parallel}}{(2\pi)^2} V(\mathbf{q}) = \frac{g \, \xi}{4\pi v_F \cos(\theta_0/2)}. \tag{6}$$

We see that, if  $\lambda \cos \theta_0 > 0$  (which implies  $q_c < \sqrt{2}p_F$  for  $\lambda > 0$ ), the effective mass increases with  $\lambda$  and nominally diverges at  $\lambda \cos \theta_0 = 1$ , while  $\xi$  is still finite, and QCP is not reached yet.

Crossover to the frequency-dependent self-energy  $\Sigma(\omega)$ . To verify whether Eq. (5) holds up to  $\lambda \sim 1$ , where  $m^*$  diverges, we need to go beyond the Hartree-Fock approximation and include the full fermionic and bosonic propagators and vertex corrections into the self-energy diagram. We assume and then verify that, for  $g/E_F \ll 1$ , the higher-order corrections predominantly renormalize V in Eq. (3), while vertex corrections and the renormalization of G can be neglected for arbitrary  $\lambda$ . The renormalization of V(q) originates from the electron polarizability

$$\Pi(q,\Omega) = \int \frac{d^2k \, d\Omega}{(2\pi)^3} \, \frac{1}{i(\omega + \Omega) - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}+\mathbf{q}}} \, \frac{1}{i\omega - \varepsilon_{\mathbf{k}}}$$
(7)

via the relation  $V^{-1}(q,\Omega) = V^{-1}(q) + \Pi(q,\Omega)$ . For q near  $q_c$ , the static part of  $\Pi(q,\Omega)$  comes from the fermions with high energies and we assume that it is already included into Eq. (2), which implies that  $\xi$  is the exact (renormalized) correlation length. The dynamical part of  $\Pi(q_c,\Omega)$  comes from low energies and describes the Landau damping of the bosonic mode due to its decay into particle-hole pairs. For  $\Omega \ll v_F q_c$ ,  $\operatorname{Im}\Pi(q_c,\Omega) \propto |\Omega|/v_F^2$ . Inserting the Landau damping term into Eq. (2), we find

$$V(q,\Omega) \approx \frac{g}{\xi^{-2} + (q - q_c)^2 + \gamma |\Omega|}, \quad \gamma \sim \frac{g}{v_F^2}.$$
 (8)

Re-evaluating  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  in Eq. (3) for the full  $V(q,\Omega)$ , we find that it now depends on both k and  $\omega$ . Notice that causal analytical properties require that the interaction constant g in Eq. (8) must be positive: g > 0 [13].

We present the results for  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  first and discuss the details of calculations later. For small  $\epsilon_k = v_F(k-k_F)$  and  $\omega$ , we then obtain

$$\Sigma(k,0) = -\lambda \cos \theta_0 \,\varepsilon_k \, h_k(\eta), \tag{9}$$

$$\Sigma(k_F, \omega) = -\lambda i\omega h_{\omega}(\eta), \qquad (10)$$

$$\eta = \gamma E_F \xi^2 \sim \lambda^2 \left( E_F / g \right). \tag{11}$$

Here and below we subtracted the renormalization of the chemical potential from  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$ , i.e., redefined  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \equiv \Sigma(k,\omega) - \Sigma(k_F,0)$ . The functions  $h_k(\eta)$  and  $h_\omega(\eta)$  have the following asymptotic behavior. For  $\eta \ll 1$ ,  $h_k(\eta) = 1 + O(\eta)$  and  $h_\omega(\eta) \sim \eta \ln(1/\eta)$ , i.e., the momentum-dependent piece in  $\Sigma$  almost coincides with Eq. (5), while the frequency dependence of  $\Sigma$  is weak. This is natural, because small  $\eta$  corresponds to small bosonic damping  $\gamma$ . However, for  $\eta \gg 1$ , we find the opposite behavior:  $h_k(\eta) \propto \eta^{-1/2} \ll 1$  and  $h_\omega(\eta) = 1 + O(\eta^{-1/2})$ . In this case, the momentum dependence of  $\Sigma$  is weak compared with the Hartree-Fock approximation, while its frequency dependence is strong. Moreover,  $\Sigma$  does *not* depend on  $\gamma$  explicitly. Thus, the limiting forms of  $\Sigma(k,\omega)$  are

$$\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \begin{cases} -\lambda \cos \theta_0 \, \varepsilon_k, & \eta \ll 1, \\ -\lambda \, i\omega, & \eta \gg 1. \end{cases}$$
 (12)

When the system approaches QCP, and  $\xi$  increases, the parameter  $\eta \propto \xi^2$  changes from  $\eta \ll 1$  to  $\eta \gg 1$ . The crossover between the two asymptotic limits in Eq. (12) takes place at  $\eta \sim 1$ , which corresponds to

$$\lambda \sim \lambda_{\rm cr} = \sqrt{g/E_F} \ll 1.$$
 (13)

Thus, the upper line in Eq. (12) stops being applicable already at  $\lambda \ll 1$ , before  $\lambda$  can generate a divergence in Eq. (5). In the vicinity of QCP, the lower line in Eq. (12) applies, and, instead of Eq. (5), we find

$$\frac{m^*}{m} \approx \frac{1}{Z} \approx 1 + \lambda. \tag{14}$$

We see therefore that the effective mass in Eq. (14) diverges only at QCP, where  $\xi \to \infty$ , but not before, contrary to the conclusion one could draw from the Hartree-Fock approximation. This is the central result of the paper. Notice that the requirement g > 0, mentioned after Eq. (8), guarantees that  $Z \leq 1$ , because  $\operatorname{sgn}(\lambda) = \operatorname{sgn}(g)$ .

Further, since  $\lambda_{\rm cr} \ll 1$ , vertex corrections and renormalization of the fermionic G in Eq. (3) are small at  $\lambda \sim \lambda_{\rm cr}$  and can be safely neglected. This justifies our approximation of including only the renormalization of the bosonic propagator. Moreover this approximation actually remains valid even at larger  $\lambda \gtrsim 1$ . Indeed, the modifications to Eq. (3) due to vertex corrections and residual momentum dependence of  $\Sigma$  are small in the parameter  $\sqrt{g/E_F} \ll 1$  and can be safely neglected even when  $\lambda = O(1)$ . Although the fermionic  $\Sigma(\omega)$  is not small at  $\lambda = O(1)$ , using the renormalized Green's function

 $G^{-1}(k,\omega)=i\omega(1+\lambda)-v_F(k-k_F)=Z[i\omega-v_F^*(k-k_F)]$  in Eq. (3) does not modify the lower line in Eq. (12), because the extra factor Z and the renormalization of  $v_F^*=k_F/m^*$  compensate each other [14]. Similarly, the coefficient  $\gamma$  in Eq. (8) does not change, because the factor  $Z^2$  coming from the two Green's function in the polarization bubble (7) compensates the renormalization of the factor  $1/v_F^2 \to 1/(v_F^*)^2$  in the expression (8) for  $\gamma$ . This behavior is typical for the Migdal-Eliashberg-type theories [15, 16].

Anomaly in the calculation of self-energy. Now we present details of the self-energy calculation and also explain why  $\lambda_{\rm cr}$  vanishes if the fermionic bandwidth ( $\sim E_F$ ) is set to infinity. Linearizing the fermionic dispersion near the two hot spots, we introduce  $\zeta = v_F \tilde{q}_\perp$  and  $\tilde{\epsilon}_k = (\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_F) \cdot \mathbf{v}_{\mathbf{k}_F + \mathbf{q}_c} = \varepsilon_k \cos \theta_0$ , where the vector  $\mathbf{k}_F$  is selected parallel to  $\mathbf{k}$  (see Fig. 1). Then  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \equiv \Sigma(k,\omega) - \Sigma(k_F,0)$  is

$$\Sigma(k,\omega) = -(i\omega - \tilde{\epsilon}_k) I(k,\omega), \tag{15}$$

$$I(k,\omega) = \int \frac{d\Omega \, d\zeta \, \tilde{V}(\Omega,\zeta)}{2\pi \left[i(\omega+\Omega) - \tilde{\epsilon}_k - \zeta\right] (i\Omega - \zeta)}, (16)$$

where we introduced  $\tilde{V}(\Omega,\zeta)$  similarly to Eq. (6)

$$\tilde{V}(\Omega,\zeta) = \frac{2}{v_F} \int \frac{d\tilde{q}_{\parallel}}{(2\pi)^2} V(\tilde{q}_{\perp}, \tilde{q}_{\parallel}, \Omega) = \frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{1 + \gamma |\Omega| \xi^2}}.$$
(17)

Notice that, to this accuracy,  $\tilde{V}(\Omega, \zeta)$  does not depend on  $\zeta$ , i.e.,  $\tilde{V}(\Omega, \zeta) = \tilde{V}(\Omega)$ .

The evaluation of  $I(k,\omega)$  in the limit  $k \to k_F$  and  $\omega \to 0$  requires care, because the integrand in Eq. (16) contains two closely located poles separated by  $\omega$  and  $\tilde{\epsilon}_k$ . If we approximate  $\tilde{V}(\Omega)$  by a constant  $\tilde{V}(0) = \lambda$ , then, nominally, the integral (16) is ultraviolet-divergent and depends on the order of integration over  $\Omega$  and  $\zeta$ .

To evaluate the integral correctly, one must keep in mind that Eq. (16) is approximate, and higher-order terms in  $(\mathbf{q} - \mathbf{q}_c)$  in G and V always make the integral over  $\mathbf{q}$  convergent at  $q - q_c \sim k_F$ . If  $\gamma = 0$  in Eq. (17), then the integral over  $\Omega$  must be taken first, because its convergence is provided only by the fermion Green's functions in Eq. (16). In this case, we obtain  $I(k,\omega) = \lambda \tilde{\epsilon}_k/(i\omega - \tilde{\epsilon}_k)$  and  $\Sigma(k,\omega) = \Sigma_k = -\lambda \tilde{\epsilon}_k$ , reproducing the top line of Eq. (12).

On other hand, if  $\gamma$  is large in Eq. (17), then  $\tilde{V}(\Omega)$  strongly depends on  $\Omega$  and provides convergence of the integral over  $\Omega$ . In this case, it is appropriate to integrate over  $\zeta$  first, over the region where the linearized expression (16) is valid. Taking the integral over  $\zeta$  first, we obtain  $I(k, i\omega) = \lambda i\omega/(i\omega - \tilde{\epsilon}_k)$  and  $\Sigma(k, \omega) = -\lambda i\omega$ , reproducing the bottom line of Eq. (12). Notice that, although the frequency dependence of  $\tilde{V}(\Omega)$  is essential to determine the correct order of integrations, the strength  $\gamma$  of this dependence drops out from the final answer. This situation bears mathematical similarity to the chiral anomaly in quantum field theory [17, 18].

The crossover between these two cases takes place when the characteristic  $\Omega$  in Eq. (17) becomes of the order of  $\zeta \sim E_F$ . Using the definition (11), we find that the cases of weak and strong frequency dependence correspond to  $\eta \lesssim 1$  and  $\eta \gtrsim 1$ , as in Eq. (12).

The fact that the crossover occurs at  $\eta \sim 1$ , i.e., at  $\lambda_{\rm cr} \ll 1$ , is a consequence of  $V(\boldsymbol{q},\Omega)$  being peaked on a circle  $|\boldsymbol{q}| = q_c$ . If  $V(\boldsymbol{q},\Omega)$  were peaked at a given vector  $\boldsymbol{q}_c$  in a crystal, then  $\tilde{V}$  would have the conventional, Ornstein-Zernike form  $\tilde{V}(\Omega,\tilde{q}_\perp) = \int d\tilde{q}_\parallel/(\xi^{-2} + \tilde{q}_\perp^2 + \tilde{q}_\parallel^2 + \gamma |\Omega|) \propto (\xi^{-2} + \tilde{q}_\perp^2 + \gamma |\Omega|)^{-1/2}$ . In this case, the crossover takes place when all three terms become comparable:  $\xi^{-2} \sim \tilde{q}_\perp^2 \sim \gamma |\Omega|$ . Since typical  $\Omega \sim v_F \tilde{q}_\perp$ , the crossover in the vector case occurs at  $\gamma v_F \xi \sim 1$ , i.e.,  $\lambda_{\rm cr} \sim 1$  [15]. However,  $m^*$  does not diverge even when  $\Sigma$  remains  $\Sigma(k)$  up to  $\lambda \sim 1$ , because the correction to velocity  $\partial_{\boldsymbol{k}} \Sigma = -\lambda v_{\boldsymbol{k}+\boldsymbol{q}_c}$  is not antiparallel to  $v_k$  in the absence of nesting, so the magnitude of the Fermi velocity does not vanish for any finite  $\lambda$  [15].

For completeness, it is instructive to see how the crossover from the top to the bottom line in Eq. (12) happens if we always integrate over  $\Omega$  first in Eq. (16). Let us deform the contour of integration over  $\Omega$  to either upper or lower complex half-plane. For  $-\tilde{\epsilon}_k < \zeta < 0$ , each half-plane contains just one pole. Wrapping the contour around the pole and integrating over  $\zeta$  within the specified limits, we obtain the  $\Sigma_k$  contribution to  $\Sigma$ . If  $\tilde{V}$  does not depend on  $\Omega$ , the calculation stops here. However, when  $\tilde{V}(\Omega)$  depends on  $\Omega$  and is given by Eq. (17), we also need to consider a contribution from the branch cut in  $\tilde{V}(\Omega)$  along the imaginary axis of  $\Omega$  where  $\Omega = i\nu + \delta$  and  $|\Omega| = i\nu \operatorname{sgn} \delta$ . Evaluating the contribution from the branch cut and combining it with the contribution from the pole, we find  $\Sigma = -\lambda \tilde{\epsilon}_k + (i\omega - \tilde{\epsilon}_k)I_{\mathrm{bc}}$ , where

$$I_{\rm bc} = (2/\pi) \int_0^{E_F} d\zeta \int_0^\infty d\nu \, \text{Im} \tilde{V}(i\nu)/(\nu+\zeta)^2$$
$$= \frac{2}{\pi} \int_0^\eta dz \int_0^\infty \frac{d\varpi}{(\varpi+z)^2} \, \text{Im} \left(\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{1-i\varpi}}\right). (18)$$

Here we introduced dimensionless variables  $z = \zeta \gamma \xi^2$  and  $\varpi = \nu \gamma \xi^2$ . For  $\eta \ll 1$ , Eq. (18) gives a small  $I_{\rm bc} \sim \lambda \eta \ln(1/\eta)$ . In the opposite limit  $\eta \gg 1$ , the integral over z can be extended to infinity, and the integral over  $\varpi$  yields  $I_{\rm bc} = \tilde{V}(0) = \lambda$  via the Kramers-Kronig relation. Notice that this result does not depend explicitly on the detailed form of the frequency dependence in  $\tilde{V}(\Omega)$  as long as the integral (18) quickly converges and can be extended to infinity. Substituting  $I_{\rm bc}$  into  $\Sigma$ , we reproduce both lines in Eq. (12) for  $\eta \ll 1$  and  $\eta \gg 1$ .

Conclusions. In this paper, we studied the quantum critical behavior of an isotropic system of fermions near a T=0 transition into a density-wave state with a finite momentum  $q_c$ . We demonstrated that, upon approaching QCP, the fermionic self-energy crosses over from  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(k)$  to  $\Sigma(k,\omega) \approx \Sigma(\omega)$ . We showed that

the crossover occurs while the dimensionless coupling  $\lambda$  (which diverges at QCP) is still small. We found that the effective mass remains finite and positive away from QCP, and diverges only at QCP as  $m^* \propto 1/Z \propto 1 + \lambda$ .

Our results apply to both charge- and spin-density-wave instabilities. In the latter case, spin-orbital interaction generally induces anisotropy in the spin space, e.g., for easy axis, the interaction in Eq. (1) is mediated by z component of spins. This only affects the numerical coefficient in  $\Sigma$ , proportional to the number of fluctuating spin components, but does not change the conclusions.

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